

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

61 [0001] This application is the Section 371(c) filing of copending PCT Application No. PCT/US99/28756 filed 3 December 1999, which designated the United States. This application also claims domestic priority from the following copending and commonly owned provisional applications, U.S.S.N. 60/111,005, filed 4 December 1998, and U.S.S.N. 60/111,011, filed 4 December 1998.

---

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please replace the PCT Abstract with the attached Abstract provided on new page number 18:

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Off-gas from a carbon black furnace is employed as a combustion gas feed stream to the burner or combustion zone of the same or a different carbon black furnace in accordance with certain embodiments, suitable conduit and valving is provided to pass off-gas, from which carbon black has been substantially removed, from any or all of multiple different carbon black furnaces to the burner. The off-gas is heated, preferably by plasma heating, and dewatered. Carbon dioxide stripping or rather stripping of gas components from the dewatered heated off-gas is found to be unnecessary to achieve economically favorable use of off-gas recirculation.

**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended to add the cross-reference to related applications section, which was not included in the PCT application. No new